

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 17 are pending.

Claims 2, 3 and 9 to 16 have been cancelled, without prejudice, or disclaimer. Consequential and clarifying amendments have been made to claims 4 and 5. New dependent claim 17 is presented for consideration by the Examiner.

Former claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 as clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,919,864 to Knaus. In response, claim 1 has been amended for clarity to clarify that the non-coating material is first sent an annular reservoir and then from the annular reservoir to along an interior wall of the extrusion die. It is believed this amendment is clearly supported by Figure 7B and accompanying description as well as original claim 12.

Knaus simply fails to disclose an annular reservoir feeding the interior wall of the extrusion die. Knaus can therefore simply not anticipate amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102 is therefor requested.

Secondary references applied by the Examiner, namely, U.S. Patent No. 2,191,829 to Johnson and Swiss Patent Document CH 675982 to Puchert similarly fail to disclose an annular reservoir and feeding the first non-foam material from the annular reservoir and along an interior wall of an extrusion die, as the interior wall of the extrusion die rotates relative to the foam material. Conveniently, providing an annular reservoir provides a continuous source of secondary fluid allowing its even application on the outer surface of the foam material within and along the interior wall of the extrusion channel.

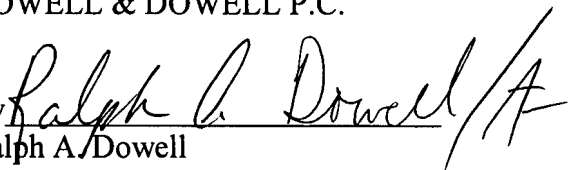
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that amended claims 1 as well as claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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